

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action mailed on December 18, 2007. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for a One-Month Extension of Time* which extends the shortened statutory period for response to expire on April 18, 2008. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timed filed.

Claims 8-15, 17-20 and 23-28 were pending in the present application. In the most recent Office Action, claims 9, 12, 17-20 and 25-28 were allowed and claims 10, 11 and 24 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims. Rejected independent claims 8 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

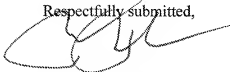
Thus, in accordance with the indication of allowable subject matter set forth in the Office Action, claims 10 and 24 were rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims in the Amendment filed on November 19, 2007. Further, dependent claims 11 and 13-15 were amended dependent from either the allowed claims or the claims identified as containing allowable subject matter. In view of such amendments, Applicants note that minor clarifying amendments have been made to certain claims to ensure consistent claim terminology is utilized throughout combinations of independent and dependent claims.

In this manner, only claims 9-15, 17-20 and 24-28 indicated by the examiner as being allowed or containing allowable subject matter remain pending in the present application. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9-15, 17-20 and 24-28 are now in proper condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that this case is now in good condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If a telephone or further personal conference would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned, who will cooperate in any appropriate manner to advance prosecution.

The Commissioner is directed and authorized to charge all additional required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to **Deposit Account Number 50-2638**. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. Please ensure that Attorney Docket Number 092807-011000 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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